

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering, ~~comprising of the type consisting of~~ hard floor panels ~~(2-3)~~, which are manufactured of a plate material and which, at least at on a number of sides the floor panels ~~(4-5-6-7; 8-9-10-11)~~; are provided with coupling parts ~~(12-13-14-15; 16-17-18-19)~~, characterized in that, wherein the floor panels ~~(2; 3)~~ are configured such that, in coupled ~~joined~~ condition, they appear as represent a herringbone pattern, wherein ~~whereby~~ the sides ~~(4-5-6-7; 8-9-10-11)~~ of the floor panels ~~(2; 3)~~ coincide with transition edges of the herringbone pattern.

2. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the floor panels ~~(2; 3)~~ are provided with coupling parts ~~(12-13-14-15; 16-17-18-19)~~ on all sides ~~(4-5-6-7; 8-9-10-11)~~.

3. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to ~~claim 1 or 2, characterized in that~~ said panels (2-3) comprise wherein the coupling parts are provided on at one or more sides of the panels and enable the, ~~which allow that these panels by these sides can~~ to be coupled to other panels of the floor covering by means of a downward movement, ~~more particularly by means of a so-called dropping-in movement, thereby providing a~~ locking in a horizontal direction in coupled condition of the floor panels.

4. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 2, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the coupling parts ~~(12-13-14-15; 16-17-18-19)~~ are configured such that they enable ~~perform~~ a locking in vertical as well as horizontal directions along at all sides ~~(4-5-6-7; 8-9-10-11)~~ of the floor panels ~~(2; 3)~~.

5. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it consists of~~ the floor panels comprise at least two series of different floor panels ~~(2; 3)~~.

6. - Floor covering according to claim 5, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the floor panels ~~(2)~~ of one of said two series form those parts ~~(28)~~ of the herringbone pattern which

extend in a first direction, ~~whereas~~ and the floor panels (3) of the second series form those ~~the~~ parts (28) of the herringbone pattern which extend in a second direction.

7. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the floor panels (2; 3) are oblong and thus have short sides (6-7; 10-11) and long sides (4-5; 8-9) and ~~that these~~ the floor panels (2; 3) in ~~mounted~~ coupled condition are disposed ~~situated~~ with their short sides coupled against the long sides of adjacent floor panels (2; 3).

8. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 6, wherein ~~claims 6 and 7, characterized in that~~ the floor panels (2; 3) of the first series as well as of the second series are provided at their opposed long sides (4-5; 8-9), with first coupling parts (12; 16) and second coupling parts (13; 17), respectively, and ~~whereas~~ at their opposed short sides (6-7; 10-11), ~~they~~ the floor panels are provided with third and fourth coupling parts (14; 18; 15; 19); and further wherein ~~that~~ the first and second coupling parts (12; 16; 13; 17) of the floor panels (2; 3) of the first series are complementary to each other; and ~~that~~ the first and second coupling parts (12; 16; 13; 17) of the floor panels (2; 3) of the second series are complementary to each other; ~~that the~~ said third and fourth coupling parts (14; 18; 15; 19) of the floor panels (2; 3) of the first series are complementary to the second and the first coupling parts (13; 17; 12; 16), respectively, of the floor panels (2; 3) of the second series; and ~~that~~ the third and the fourth coupling parts (14; 18; 15; 19) of the floor panels (2; 3) of the second series are complementary to the first and second coupling parts (12; 16; 13; 17), respectively, of the first series.

9. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the coupling parts (12-13-14-15; 16-17-18-19) ~~at~~ of the floor panels (2; 3), starting from a long side, are arranged successively, as viewed ~~seen~~ from the upper side and in clockwise direction: as first, fourth, second and third coupling parts (12-13-14-15; 16-17-18-19).

10. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 7, wherein ~~any of the claims 7 to 9, characterized in that~~ the floor panels (2; 3) are rectangular.

11. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 7, wherein ~~any of the claims 7 to 9, characterized in that~~ the floor panels (2; 3) have the shape of a parallelogram.

12. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ the floor panels (2; 3) are made ~~realized~~ in the shape of a parallelogram, and wherein the ~~whereby these~~ floor panels (2; 3) extend in one direction in rows with parallel separation lines (26-27) when coupled.

13. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 12, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the floor panels (2; 3) are oblong.

14. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 13, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the floor panels (2; 3) are disposed ~~situated~~ with their short sides (6-7; 10-11) against said parallel separation lines (26-27).

15. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 12, said covering comprising ~~any of the claims 12 to 14, characterized in that it comprises~~ at least two series of different floor panels (2; 3), whereby wherein the floor panels (2; 3) of one of said two series form the parts (28) of the herringbone pattern which extend in a first direction, and ~~whereas~~ the floor panels (2; 3) of the second series form the parts (28) of the herringbone pattern which extend in a second direction.

16. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 15, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the floor panels (2; 3) of the first series as well as the second series are provided with first and second coupling parts (12, 16; 13, 17) at two opposed sides (4-5-6-7; 8-9-10-11), and ~~whereas~~ at the other two sides (12, 16; 13, 17), they are provided with third and fourth coupling parts (14, 18; 15, 19); and wherein ~~that~~ the first and second coupling parts (12, 16; 13, 17) of the floor panels (2; 3) of the first series are complementary to each other; that the first and second coupling parts (12, 16; 13, 17) of the floor panels (2; 3) of the second series are complementary to each other; and ~~that~~ the third and fourth coupling parts (14, 18; 15, 19) of the floor panels (2; 3) of the first series are

complementary to the fourth and the third coupling parts ~~(15, 19; 14, 18)~~, respectively, of the second series.

17. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 12, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the floor panels (2; 3) which are intended for forming the parts (28) which extend in one oblique direction of the herringbone pattern, as well as the floor panels (2; 3) which are intended for forming the parts (28) which extend in the other oblique direction of the herringbone pattern, are identical in respect to shape and coupling parts ~~(12-13-14-15; 16-17-18-19)~~, and such ~~whereby they also have the shape is~~ of an equilateral parallelogram.

18. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 5, wherein the panels ~~characterized in that floor panels (2; 3) are applied~~ each have ~~having~~ a pair of opposed sides with coupling parts of a similar non-complementary type.

19. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 18, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the remaining pairs of opposed sides ~~show~~ have complementary coupling parts.

20. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 18, wherein ~~or 19; characterized in that~~ the floor panels (2; 3) of each of both series, per series comprise coupling parts of the same type at three adjoining successive sides of the panels, ~~whereby~~ wherein the coupling parts at said three successive sides of the panels of the first series are complementary to the coupling parts at the three successive sides of the panels of the second series.

21. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 18, wherein ~~any of claims 18 to 20; characterized in that~~ the panels are rectangular and oblong and in that the opposite sides with the non-complementary coupling parts are formed by the long sides.

22. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 18, wherein ~~any of claims 18 to 20; characterized in that~~ the panels are rectangular and oblong and in that the

opposite sides with the non-complementary coupling parts are formed by the short sides.

23. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ each floor panel coincides with one part of the herringbone pattern.

24. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the claims 1 to 22, characterized in that~~ each floor panel coincides with a multiple of strip-shaped parts (28) of the herringbone pattern.

25. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the claims 1 to 16 or 18 to 22, characterized in that~~ the floor panels (2; 3) are formed realized as elongate strip-shaped parts (28), wherein the longer ~~longest~~ sides (4-5; 8-9) of the floor panels (2; 3) are shorter than 50 cm, and both ~~longest~~ longer sides (4-5; 8-9) are situated at a distance from each other which is smaller than 15 cm.

26. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the floor panels (2; 3) are provided with the coupling parts (12-13-14-15; 16-17-18-19) which lock the floor panels together without play (2; 3) free of play; preferably with a pretension.~~

27. - (Currently Amended) Floor covering according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the floor panels (2; 3) and the coupling parts (12-13-14-15; 16-17-18-19) are each formed realized of one piece cut [[,]] from one larger plate; whether of a multi-layered structure or not.~~

28. - (Currently Amended) Floor panel comprising a hard panel ~~characterized in that it is configured such that therewith; in combination with other floor panels (2; 3), whether having another shape or not, a floor covering according to claim 1 can be formed any of the preceding claims can be realized.~~

29. - (Currently Amended) Method for laying panels to create ~~for realizing~~ a floor covering according to claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the floor panels (2-3) of the respective series are installed row per row, ~~more particularly~~ by laying alternately a row of floor panels (2) of the first series in one direction (A) and a row of floor panels (3) of the second series in an opposite direction (B).

30. - (Currently Amended) Method for laying panels, ~~for realizing~~ to create a floor covering according to claim 22, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ alternately complete herringbone patterns are ~~realised~~ formed with panels of the first series and with panels of the second series.

31. - (Currently Amended) Method for laying panels to create ~~for realizing~~ a floor covering according to claim 21, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ alternately zigzag rows are ~~realised~~ formed during laying, each zigzag row being systematically formed of panels belonging to only one series.

32. - (Currently Amended) Method for manufacturing panels useful for making ~~for realizing~~ a floor covering in a herringbone pattern comprising two series of panels (2-3), each pair of opposite sides of both series of panels being provided with complementary coupling parts, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the panels of both series are formed ~~realised~~ by means of the same cutting tools, comprising ~~whereby~~ at least the following steps ~~are applied~~:

- displacing the panels of both series along a first set of tools (32) for forming a first pair of complementary coupling parts at two opposite sides;
- displacing the panels of both series along a second set of tools (33) for forming the second pair of complementary coupling parts at the two remaining opposite sides;
- when transferring the panels (2) of the first series of panels from the first to the second set of tools, subjecting them to a rotation such that they finally end up in a rotational position in which they are turned in one direction; and

- when transferring the panels (3) of the second series of panels from the first to the second set of tools, subjecting them to a rotation such that they finally end up in a position in which they are turned in another direction than the panels of the first series.

33. - (Currently Amended) Method for manufacturing panels useful for making ,~~for realizing~~ a floor covering in a herringbone pattern comprising two series of panels (2-3), one pair of opposite sides of both series of panels being provided with complementary coupling parts, the other pair being provided with non-complementary coupling parts, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the coupling parts are ~~realized~~ formed by using three sets of tools, ~~whereby~~ wherein a first set of tools (34) is used for providing the panels (2-3) of both series with complementary coupling parts at one pair of opposite sides, and ~~whereby~~ a second set of tools (35) is used for forming ~~realizing~~ non-complementary coupling parts at the remaining opposite sides of the panels (2) of the first series, and a third set of tools (36) is used for forming ~~realizing~~ non-complementary coupling parts at the remaining opposite sides of the panels (3) of the second series.

34. - (Currently Amended) Set of packaged floor panels made ,~~more particularly floor panels~~ according to claim 28, said panels adapted to form ~~for forming~~ a herringbone pattern composed of at least two series of different panels (2,3), comprising packages of ~~characterized in that said panels are packaged~~ arranged such that each ~~packaging package~~ comprises panels of both series.